

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A screw press (1) for pressing fibrous material, in particular sugar beet pulp, comprising:

- a feeding end and a discharge end, said fibrous material being urged during pressing according to a material advancement direction from said feeding end to said discharge end;

- at least one pair of helical elements (20, 30) disposed mutually parallel and side by side, each of said helical elements (20, 30) comprising at least one helix (22, 23, 32, 33) disposed about a rotary shaft (21, 31) which extends along a predetermined axial direction (X-X, X'-X');

- a perforated walled filtering cage (5) supported at least lowerly by a series of equidistant hoops (13, 14) and enclosing said pair of helical elements (20, 30) as an exact fit;

- for feeding the fibrous material to the press, a loading hopper (8) fixed to the hoops (13, 14) supporting the cage (5);

- for exit of the pressed material, a discharge opening (9) positioned in proximity to the said discharge end of the press (1) with respect to the said material advancement direction;

- a collection sump (10) positioned externally to said filtering cage (4) (5), to collect the liquid component of the pressed fibrous material;

characterised in that

said filtering cage (5) presents an upper part and a lower part each, said upper part is supported by upper hoops of said series of said of equidistant hoops and said lower part is supported by lower hoops of said series of equidistant hoops (13, 14), the upper part being of modular structure having a plurality of modules, a distance between the axes of each module (M) which of said plurality of modules is constant and is a sub-multiple of, or equal to, the a dimension of the loading hopper (8) measured along said predetermined axial direction, each of said plurality of module modules (M) comprising at least two of said upper hoops (13), said loading hopper (8) being shiftable to a place that was occupied by its replacing one or more of said plurality of modules (M) of the filtering cage (5) in which one or more of the modules replaced a place that was occupied by the loading hopper before it was shifted.

2. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said module (M) measures one fifth of the dimension of the loading hopper (8) measured along said predetermined axial direction (X-X, X'-X') .

3. (Previously Presented) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said collection sump (10) presents an opening (12) for exit of the liquid component of the pressed fibrous material.

4. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hoops (13) are positioned a distance apart equal to the measurement of said module (M) .

5. (Currently Amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein [[a]] said helix (22, 32) winds about each shaft.

6. (Original) A press (1) as claimed claim 5, wherein the helixes (22, 32) are multi-start helixes.

7. (Currently Amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 6, wherein each helix of said helixes (22, 23, 32, 33) presents a pitch which decreases in the direction in which the material advances during pressing.